

REMARKS

A Request for a One (1) Month Extension of Time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and (b) is attached hereto.

The above-captioned patent application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action to which this Amendment is responsive. Claims 1 and 74 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. To that end, it is believed no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4, 6-12, 74 and 75 are pending. All pending claims have been deemed allowable over the prior art of record. However, Claims 1, 4, 6-12, 74 and 75 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Examiner in the disposition of this application. To that end, Applicant has wholly adopted the proposed claim amendment drafted by the Examiner to Claims 1 and 74 to more clearly state that the sealed tips are disposed in the retaining stations after action by the sealing and tip stripper mechanisms in accordance with Applicant's previous arguments, filed August 3, 2007.

In summary, it is believed the application is now in an allowable condition and an expedited Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

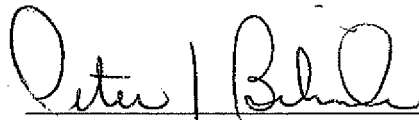
If the Examiner wishes to expedite disposition of the above-captioned patent application, she is gratefully invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Payment of the One (1) month extension of time fee will be made by credit card at the time of filing this response. However, in the event that any additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3010 for any additional fees and to charge any overpayments thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

HISCOCK & BARCLAY, LLP

Date: February 19, 2008

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Bilinski", written over a horizontal line.

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